

24. (Currently amended) A method of controlling an electric machine with power from a power source, the electric machine comprising a rotor, a main winding circuit comprising a main winding, and an auxiliary circuit connected in a parallel relationship with the main winding circuit, the auxiliary circuit comprising an auxiliary circuit element and an electronic switch assembly electrically connected to the winding in a series relationship such that the electronic switch assembly controls current through the auxiliary circuit element, the electronic switch assembly including an electronic switch, a controller connected to the electronic switch to control the electronic switch, and a power supply connected to the power source and the controller, the method comprising the acts of:

connecting the electronic switch assembly to the power source;

powering the power supply;

determining at the power supply whether the voltage of the power is greater than a value;

and

obstructing the power from powering the controller when the voltage is greater than the value, and

preventing current through the auxiliary circuit component in response to the obstructing act.

25. (Cancelled).

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26. (Original) A method as set forth in claim ²⁴25 wherein the electric machine is a motor and wherein the method further comprises preventing the motor from starting in response to preventing current through the winding.

27. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 26 wherein obstructing power from powering the controller includes shorting the power supply.

28. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 24 wherein obstructing power from powering the controller includes shorting the power supply.